

AAIA

Association on American Indian Affairs

2016 Annual Report



Protecting Sovereignty

Preserving Culture

Educating Youth

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2016: The Issues

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AAIA: Impacting Lives 1922-2016

We Were There — As the oldest Native American service and advocacy organization in the United States, the Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) has impacted the lives of Native American and Alaska Natives in many ways over the past 94 years. From helping the Pueblo people keep their land and water rights in the 1920's, to the scholarships provided to Native college students in the 1940's, to the Field Nursing Program in the 1950's which sent nurses to reservations, to helping Alaska Natives to protect their lands and hunting and fishing rights in the 1960's, to the studies that were done in the 1970's which led to the Indian Child Welfare Act, AAIA was there.

In the 1980's we were still there working to establish the Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act, and in the 1990's we were there to gain enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and ensure its implementation and helped to protect sacred lands. In the 2000's we were there too—making sure that tribes have access to funding for their child welfare programs, fighting for the right to use eagles and other birds for sacred ceremonies, providing funding so Native children can attend summer camps that focus on cultural preservation and health education, and helping to change the process by which tribes are federally recognized among other things. As we move into our 9th decade of providing services to Native Americans and Alaska Natives, we will continue to be here to impact Indian Country for future generations.

AAIA is governed by an all-Native Board of Directors from across the country representing a diversity of tribes, geography and areas of expertise. We work in close cooperation with Native Americans and other organizations that have similar missions in determining which issues will be pursued and the amount of emphasis to be placed on each issue. Our national advocacy work and grass roots initiatives fall into three main categories: youth/education, cultural preservation and sovereignty.

A Letter from the President

AAIA: Who we are in a snapshot

Dear Friends,

I am proud to present this Annual Report of 2016. AAIA is the oldest Native American advocacy and service organization, having been founded in 1922. Preserving Native cultures while promoting self-determination and the well-being of Indian and Alaska Native children and families is a priority for our organization and has been for most of our long history. During 2016, AAIA continued to focus on Preservation of Tribal Cultures (international repatriation and sacred sites protection), Promoting Sovereignty (federal recognition reform) and Youth/ Education (scholarships, summer camps, juvenile justice and Indian child welfare advocacy training, research and legal assistance).

On September 24-25, AAIA was able to meet one of the major goals of its International Repatriation Project by bringing together Native Nations to discuss International Repatriation. AAIA hosted its second annual Indigenous International Repatriation Conference at the Isleta Pueblo Resort & Casino, a beautiful venue owned by the Pueblo of Isleta in New Mexico.

The work AAIA undertakes is possible because we are an independent organization. This work is done in partnership with Native communities and other Native and non-Native NGOs, wherever possible. Individual, tribal, corporate and other non-profit contributors make possible the flexibility we have to put our resources where they are most needed. Thus, we are able to work on issues and problems that are vitally important to Indian people, communities and tribes, but which don't get the attention that they need and deserve.

Thank you for your continued support to make possible our important assistance to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Faith Roessel

Faith Roessel
President
Navajo



Leadership *Board of Directors*

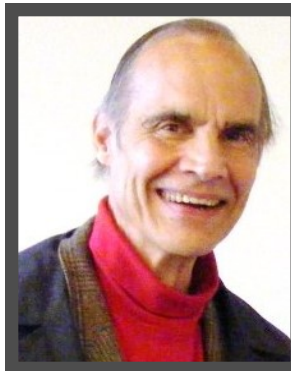
AAIA is governed by an All-Native Board of Directors representing all regions of the country. The collective wealth of knowledge and expertise in diverse areas makes AAIA's Board well suited to develop policies that benefit all Native peoples



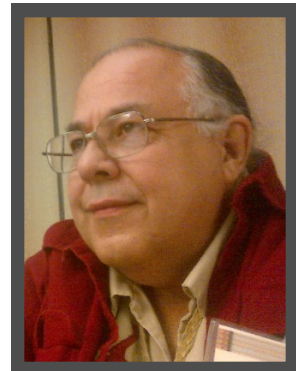
Faith Roessel
President



Alfred R. Ketzler, Sr.
Vice President
Athabaskan



Bradford R. Keeler
Secretary



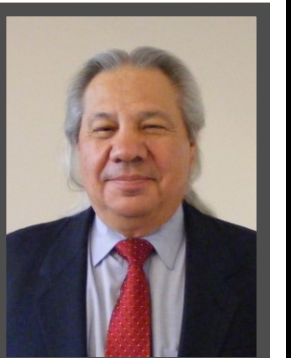
Frank Ettawageshik
Treasurer



Elke Chenevey
Omaha



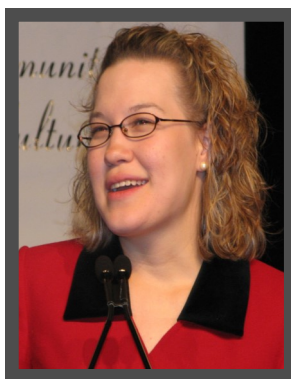
Dee Ann DeRoin, MD
Nominating Chair
Ioway



John Echohawk
Pawnee



Jonathan Perry
Wampanoag



Sarah Kastelic
Alutiiq

No Picture

Cheriena Ben
Choctaw



Leadership
Council of Advisors

Howard B. Teich, *Chair*

Nadema Agard, *Cherokee*

Gail Bruce

Kimberly Guerrero, *Colville/Salish-Kootenai/Cherokee*

John Haworth, *Cherokee*

Dennis Hirschfelder

Peter Johnson

Alli Joseph, *Shinnecock*

Hattie Kauffman, *Nez Perce*

Kerry Kennedy

Dr. Francesca Kress

Mary Kathryn Nagle, *Cherokee*

Gloria Steinem

Curtis Zunigha, *Delaware*

*Furthering
the work
of the
Association*

In 2013 AAIA was pleased to expand its Advisory Board into a Council of Advisors. Based largely in New York where AAIA was established and incorporated, the Council is comprised of individuals who are interested in furthering the work of the Association. They hold a wealth of knowledge and various interests, and are prominent in their own fields. The Council's main initiatives consist of raising the profile of the Association's work, assisting in planning our fundraising events, and helping AAIA to network with individuals who can assist AAIA programmatically and financially.

Leadership

Staff & Volunteers

Staff

Kimberly A. Dutcher, Executive Director, *Navajo*

Honor Keeler, Director of International Repatriation Project, *Cherokee*

Betsy Detlefs, Finance & Payroll manager (Cherokee)

Although AAIA received very little funding from federal grants in 2016 we have been able to obtain valuable staff members through federal programs such as the AmeriCorps VISTA Program and the Federal Work Study Program. We are also very fortunate to have dedicated volunteers to review applications for our scholarship program and help with fundraising events.

Volunteers

Cynthia Rudder

Robin Wachenfeld

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Protecting Sovereignty, Constitutional, Legal and Human Rights and Natural Resources

Indian Child Welfare

Indian Child Welfare Act

The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) works to promote the well-being of Indian children and families by ensuring the child welfare system preserves the connection between Indian children and their families, extended families, communities and cultures. In 2014 and 2015, AAIA began development of an Indian Child Welfare Tribal-State Agreement report with funding from Casey Family Programs. Throughout 2016, AAIA contacted states and Tribes to gather all ICWA Tribal-State Agreements that were currently in effect and began drafting a finalizing it report. The final report will be published by AAIA in 2017.

Adoption Project

AAIA has been working with the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) on a project to review practices by the private adoption industry in regards to Indian children. The first objective of the Project was to compile state adoption data and laws, policies and practices relevant to ICWA and the adoption of Indian children. A joint report with our partner NICWA was developed in 2016 on state adoption statutes, with NICWA providing an analysis of U.S. adoption sources and AAIA providing an overview of U.S. adoption statutes. NICWA and AAIA continue to work together to determine the best strategy for releasing the report in 2017.

AAIA Stands Against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL)

In a November 30, 2016 letter to then U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch, the AAIA Board of Members condemned the action of Morton County, North Dakota law enforcement against the Water Protectors opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline and called upon the U.S. Department of Justice to immediately investigate the actions of the Morton County law enforcement. On December 4, 2016 the Army Corp of Engineers announced that it would not issue an easement for the oil project to cross Lake Oahe. Instead the agency will undertake additional National Environmental Policy Act analysis regarding potential impacts and alternate routes. The project is halted for now, but the easement was the final federal approval/action necessary for Energy Transfer Partners, LP to complete construction on the 1,170 mile pipeline.

Juvenile Justice

Native youth are incarcerated at a higher and disproportionate rate than other youth, and for many reasons, spend more time in detention than non-Native youth. AAIA's work has been focused on promoting appropriate and safe alternatives to incarceration for Native youth, whether they are involved with tribal, state, or local systems. In April AAIA traveled to Choctaw, Mississippi as part of its continuing work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a comprehensive detention reform model which reduces reliance on juvenile incarceration and creates a fairer, more effective juvenile justice system.

The purpose of the AAIA site visit was to gather quantitative and qualitative data about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian's (MBCI) JDAI project. MBCI is the first tribal nation to implement JDAI. MBCI's experience implementing JDAI in a tribal context is unique, and lessons learned will be informative for other tribal nations addressing juvenile justice reform in general. In November AAIA completed and submitted its survey of JDAI sites to the Annie E. Casey Foundation and identified best practices in Indian Country for Native youth in its accompanying report. In December AAIA reported on its findings on the MBCI site, chronicling the accomplishments, successes, challenges, and lessons learned through MBCI's adaptation of the JDAI model. These findings will help to inform tribal nations addressing juvenile justice reform as well as those involved in juvenile justice about the lessons learned to date from MBCI's project.

Sustain and Perpetuate Cultures and Languages

International Repatriation Project

During 2016 AAIA made significant progress heightening awareness about the protection of sacred places and the important human rights issue of international repatriation: the return of Ancestors and cultural objects to their rightful tribes and communities. Since 2014, AAIA has worked diligently to address four major goals expressed by members of the Working Group on International Repatriation whose members include representatives from across Native Nations and other Indigenous Peoples: 1- Education about international repatriation to tribal, national, and international communities; 2- Guidance on international repatriation for Native Nations and their Peoples; 3- Bringing together Native Nations to discuss international repatriation and develop an outcome document and protocols; and 4- Development of a database so that Native Nations may find their Ancestors and cultural items in international and private collections.

Second Annual Indigenous International Repatriation Conference, Shifting the Burden

The Second Annual AAIA Indigenous International Repatriation Conference, *Shifting the Burden*, was held September 26-27 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at Isleta Resort & Casino. A diverse and expert group of presenters spoke on a variety of topics that related to international repatriation and the trafficking of Native American Ancestors, funerary objects, sacred items, and cultural patrimony. Keynote speaker, Professor Rebecca Tsosie (Yaqui), Regents Professor of Law and Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Arizona's James E. Rodgers College of Law, gave an impassioned address about the importance of ending the trade of Indigenous Ancestors and cultural items around the world, and shifting the burden away from Indigenous Peoples who have suffered the losses of their Ancestors and cultural items taken from burial places and communities without their permission.

In addition to presenters from American Indian tribes, Te Herekiele Herewini (Māori) from the Te Papa Museum's International Repatriation Programme in New Zealand and Professor Daryle Rigney from the Ngarrindjeri Nation in Australia presented on efforts by their own Indigenous communities to repatriate their Ancestors and cultural items from international institutions. Representatives from international museums also attended to learn about Indigenous perspectives on international repatriation and to discuss repatriations that had occurred from their museums. All emphasized the importance of the Indigenous consultation process and the need for institutional changes to adopt international repatriation policies that involve input from Indigenous Peoples.

Presentations were also given on proposed legislation in Congress to prevent the ongoing trafficking of Native American Ancestors and cultural items, and the need for investigations to be concluded to gather data from tribal communities and the federal government to shut down illegal activity. Tribal representatives discussed the importance of implementing Intertribal Investigative Units throughout the country. Toward the end of the conference, Indigenous Peoples representatives had the opportunity to meet with each other to express shared concerns about continuing trafficking on federal, state, and private lands; the needs for repatriating internationally; and the ongoing issues tribes have surrounding the lack of meaningful consultations with agencies, federally funded institutions, and other museums. After the conclusion of the Conference, federal government representatives held a listening session on international repatriation with the tribes.

AAIA's Second Indigenous International Repatriation Conference, *Shifting the Burden*, had three times the number of tribal and indigenous elders and leaders, government representatives, educators, scholars, museum professionals, and others attend than our inaugural conference. Participants provided positive feedback and the Conference was deemed a success by all.

Education and Guidance On International Repatriation

AAIA presents at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI): AAIA presented “*International Developments in International Repatriation*” during the “*International Advocacy to Protect Tribal Sovereignty*” session, and moderated the session, “*Protecting Our Cultural Resources: An Overview of Current Efforts*” during NCAI's Mid-Year Conference June 27-30, 2016 in Spokane, Washington. Presenters included: Kurt Riley, Governor, Pueblo of Acoma, who spoke about the international repatriation efforts of the Acoma Pueblo; Regina Whiteskunk and Charles Wilkinson, who spoke about the Bears Ears Coalition and National Monument designation; and government representatives who spoke on cultural resources, consultation policies, and the repatriation of children from the Carlisle Indian School.

AAIA also attended NCAI's 73rd Annual Convention and Marketplace in Phoenix, Arizona on October 9-14, 2016. AAIA participated in the Department of the Interior's Listening Session on International Repatriation on October 9, and presented a Conference Outcome Document which summarized important issues garnered from AAIA's Second Annual Indigenous International Repatriation Conference, *Shifting the Burden*. AAIA also provided a legislative update for NCAI's Human, Religious & Cultural Concerns Subcommittee on a joint Resolution, H. Con. Res. 122, Protection of the Right of Tribes to Stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional (PROTECT) Patrimony Resolution, S. Con. Res. 49/H. Con. Res. 122, and S. 3127, Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) legislation pending in Congress.

The AAIA Granted Consultative Status at the United Nations: During the summer AAIA was awarded special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in recognition of its expertise in the area of international repatriation. Consultative status permits AAIA to: designate observers at ECOSOC meetings; submit written statements to be circulated to the Secretary-General and the Council; and make oral statements in its area of expertise.

AAIA provides expert testimony at the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Field Hearing: On October 18, 2016 AAIA testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on international repatriation and on the illegal trafficking of Native American Ancestors and cultural items. AAIA's testimony outlined specific recommendations: mandating centralized training across federal agencies for proper implementation and training on federal laws; a full investigation into the implementation of federal laws to reveal the extent of looting of Native American sacred places; a report to provide actionable steps to Congress and agencies to identify funding, appropriation, and legislative gaps to prevent trafficking and to ensure repatriation occurs from private and international collections; a mandate by Congress instructing agencies to develop a tribal consultation policy; and funding and appropriations created by Congress to establish Intertribal Investigative Units throughout the country. Several tribal leaders testified on behalf of their Native Nations regarding the sale of their cultural items at private auction houses overseas and the ongoing looting of their burial and sacred places. In addition to the tribes, the Department of the Interior, Department of State, and the Department of Homeland Security provided perspectives on the ongoing illegal trafficking on federal lands.

AAIA provides updates on International Repatriation to the United South & Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET): At the end of October in Cherokee, North Carolina, AAIA attended the USET Conference and provided updates regarding the Indigenous International Repatriation Conference and the October 18, 2016 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs field hearing. During the Conference Chief Arvol Looking Horse (19th Generation Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Woman Pipe) addressed the USET tribal leadership regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline Project and the need for tribes and others to come together in these efforts. Many tribes, Indigenous Peoples, and others have gathered at the Sacred Stone camp in South Dakota to protect the water, burials, and sacred places against the advancement of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Burial and sacred places have already been destroyed in the path of this pipeline.

Database Development

AAIA has participated in a 3-year grant "*Return, Reconcile, Renew*" with the Ngarrindjeri Nation, Torres Strait Islander community, and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) which are Indigenous communities working in international repatriation in Australia, as well as the Australian National University and the Australian Government. In July AAIA traveled to Melbourne, Australia to continue work on an Indigenous database that will help locate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ancestors and cultural items. This research and culturally sensitive database will help to address one of the greatest challenges of Indigenous communities: finding Indigenous Ancestors and cultural items beyond their country's borders.

Improve Health, Education, and Community Development

Scholarships

AAIA continued its history of assisting Native American college students reach their educational goals by providing graduate and undergraduate scholarships. Scholarships were awarded to students from federally recognized tribes as well as to those students from tribes that are not yet included on the list of federally recognized tribes.

The AAIA awarded 27 graduate and undergraduate students a scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year. The average scholarship award for the school year was \$1,500 and \$1,000 for emergency aid.

Youth Summer Camps

Each summer AAIA proudly sponsors summer camps serving Native American youth. The following organizations received grants from the AAIA to hold their 2016 summer youth camps:

- Abinoojiiyag Center, Lac du Flambeau, WI
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Portland, OR
- Kamiah Nimiipuu Health Clinic, Kamiah, ID
- Department of Indian Work, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul, St. Paul MN
- Pathkeepers for Indigenous Knowledge, Culpepper, VA
- Pollen Circles, Inc., Window Rock, AZ



Public Education

Newsletter

In 2016, AAIA published only an E-Newsletter, in December and August and temporarily discontinued the hard-copy newsletter, *Indian Affairs*. The newsletters highlight the work of the Association as well as provide articles about issues important to the Native community. Please contact our Executive Office in Rockville, Maryland for subscriptions.

Annual Meeting of the Members and Leader of Distinction Reception

AAIA hosted its 94th Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Courtyard, Albuquerque, NM. The event honored the New Mexico Congressional Delegation in recognition of their leadership on International Repatriation. The event also paid special tribute to Joy Hanley (Navajo), AAIA Board Member, for her contributions to AAIA for over 37 years (1979-2016).

2016 Organizational Highlights

The AAIA Executive Office moved suite number locations in July. The new Executive Office location is at: 966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 30-A, Rockville, MD 20850.

Financial Information
Statement of Financial Position-Assets- December 2016 & December
2015 and Liabilities & Assets 2016 & 2015

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>2016</u>		<u>2015</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	352,300	\$	63,067
Investments in marketable securities			
Grants and contracts receivable			5,600
Contributions receivable			
Other receivables			
Prepaid expenses	8,091		6,528
Total current assets	360,391		\$75,195
<u>Property and Equipment</u>			
Furniture and equipment	26,371		26,371
Less accumulated depreciation	(26,371)		(22,394)
Net Property and equipment			3,977
<u>Other Assets</u>			
Investments - endowments	479,428		501,856
Security deposits	1,150		1,150
Total other assets	480,578		503,006
	840,969	\$	582,178

Financial Information
***Statement of Financial Position-Assets- December 2016& December
2015 and Liabilities & Assets 2016 & 2015***

<u>Current Liabilities</u>	2016		2015
Accounts payable	50,639	\$	53,188
Accrued wages	3,868		3,522
Other accruals	1,027		2,675
Accrued vacation	5,088		5,088
Total current liabilities	60,622		64,473
<u>Net Assets</u>			
Unrestricted	67,499		(179,845)
Temporarily restricted	158,318		44,727
Permanently restricted	554,530		652,823
Total net assets	780,347		517,705
	840,969	\$	582,178

Financial Information
Statement of Activities for the year ending 2016
(with comparative totals for the year ending 2015)

	2016			Total	2015
	Temporarily	Permanently			
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>		
Revenues, gains & other support					
Contributions and dues	73,534	13,300	-	86,834	145,878
Legacies	325,458		-	325,458	8,970
Grants	50,000	250,901	-	300,901	102,500
Consulting		37,674	-	37,674	46,935
Conference Registrations		28,606		28,606	
Investment income		9,470	-	9,470	15,375
Media sales	2,217		-	2,217	900
Other income	2,776		-	2,776	9,274
In-kind contributions	840		-		
Realized gains (losses) on investments		7,743	-	7,743	67,800
Unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4,852		-	4,852	(79,233)

How You Can Help

Consistent financial support helps AAIA continue to fund the programs described in this report. AAIA receives financial support through a number of avenues such as member contributions, on-line contributions, trusts, bequests, grants and foundations. Your support will help us to continue to work for the benefit of Native youth, families and communities through our policy and advocacy work and grass roots programming.

- Membership - Your donation of \$35 or more per year will assist us in providing programs that are vitally important to Native youth, families and communities. You will have the opportunity to receive program updates through our newsletter Indian Affairs, which is accessible online or as a hardcopy by request. You will also be invited to attend our Annual Meeting of the Members (which is open to the public) held in New York City, or to vote by proxy.
- Spread the Word - Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and ask your family and friends to do the same and to join in supporting us too. You can also view our language program videos on YouTube and see our new language program website at www.aaialanguageprogram.org. Sign up for our monthly newsletter by visiting our website at www.indian-affairs.org and forward the information to family & friends.
- On-Line Giving - Make a safe and secure donation on-line through Network for Good on our website at www.indian-affairs.org.
- Monthly Gifts - Consider making a monthly gift to AAIA, which can be easily paid by credit card or automatically deducted from your bank account.
- Matching Gift Program - Many companies offer Matching Gift Programs. Visit your Human Resources Department and ask if donations to AAIA can be matched and use their Matching Gifts Contribution form.
- Join your workplace giving program and designate AAIA for your charitable contribution.
- Bequests and Trusts - By remembering AAIA in your will, you can support Native youth, families and communities for years to come. Please consider contributions of a specific sum, a percentage of your estate or stocks and bonds in a bequest or trust to AAIA.



Protecting Sovereignty

Preserving Culture

Educating Youth

The background features a large, light gray watermark of the AAIA logo. It consists of a central stylized figure with a rectangular body and a head with two vertical lines, all enclosed within a circular border. Radiating from the center are several arrow-like shapes pointing outwards.

AAIA Executive Office

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AAIA

www.indian-affairs.org

***The Association on American Indian Affairs is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit,
publicly supported, tax exempt corporation.***

***Donations and contributions to AAIA are tax deductible to the extent
provided by law.***

FINANCIAL ADDENDUM
January 28, 2019

ASSOCIATION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AFFAIRS, INC.

COMPARATIVE EXPENSE DATA

FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31,

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
PROGRAM SERVICES				
Scholarship, Education & Youth	\$ 153,069	\$ 214,634	\$ 256,395	\$ 438,787
Health	-	20,214	17,752	10,299
Legal affairs	153,193	228,595	227,413	112,974
Public education	<u>52,283</u>	<u>79,100</u>	<u>66,560</u>	<u>43,605</u>
Total program services	358,545	542,543	568,120	605,665
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
General and administrative	139,892	75,425	89,904	86,377
Fund raising	<u>46,292</u>	<u>187,240</u>	<u>214,141</u>	<u>206,869</u>
Total supporting services	<u>186,184</u>	<u>262,665</u>	<u>304,045</u>	<u>293,246</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$ 544,729</u>	<u>\$ 805,208</u>	<u>\$ 872,165</u>	<u>\$ 898,911</u>